

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10687 311101Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9363
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10687

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SHUM, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: CASE OF SORIN DUMITRESCU

1. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND FOR DUMITRESCU CASE IN WHICH CANBERRA MAY HAVE SOME INVOLVEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE.
2. DUMITRESCU, A ROMANIAN CITIZEN, WAS A SENIOR UNESCO SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL, STATIONED AT HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS. IN JUNE 1976, HE WENT ON A UNESCO OFFICIAL MISSION TO BULGARIA AND ROMANIA, AND WAS DETAINED BY GOR. HE HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE ROMANIA SINCE.
3. THERE IS NO CLEAR, COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF GOR CHARGES AGAINST DUMITRESCU, BUT GOR HAS STATED, WITH VARYING DEGREE OF FORMALITY, THAT HE (A) REFUSED TO CONVERT THE LEGALLY PRESCRIBED PORTION OF HIS HARD
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PAGE 02 PARIS 10687 311101Z

CURRENCY SALARY INTO ROMANIAN CURRENCY, (B) DID NOT MAINTAIN PROPER CONTACT WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS, AND (C) WAS PLANNING TO TAKE POLITICAL ASYLUM. HE IS NOW UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE, AND WE HAVE HEARD BOTH THAT HE HAS TO REPORT TO THE POLICE SEVERAL TIMES A DAY AND THAT HE UNDERGOES QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE FOR MANY HOURS A DAY. HIS WIFE REMAINS IN ROMANIA,

ALTHOUGH HIS ADULT DAUGHTER, ANA, HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE AND IS A STUDENT IN PARIS. SHE HAS WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER SEEKING ASSISTANCE.

4. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO, AND INDEED OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM, REGARD THE GOR'S ACTION AS AN UNJUSTIFIED VIOLATION OF THE OBLIGATION THE GOR HAS TO RESPECT THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT WHO IS ON AN OFFICIAL MISSION FOR HIS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO, HAVE MADE SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE GOR TO PERMIT DUMITRESCU TO RETURN TO HIS UNESCO POST IN PARIS.

5. IN SPRING 1977, PROFESSOR HUGH PHILP OF MACQUAIRE UNIVERSITY, A MEMBER OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, UNSUCCESSFULLY MOVED TO HAVE THE BOARD REFER THE CASE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE HAGUE FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION. PHILP MAY (SEE SEPTTEL) RAISE THE CASE AGAIN AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION STARTING APRIL 24. HE WILL COORDINATE HIS POSITION CLOSELY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND GOA MAY ELECT TO INFORM THE EMBASSY.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 10687 311101Z

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